

NIC ARNZEN

CENSUS TRACT 4602 (Mariposa to the mountain, Lake to Fair Oaks)

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Since being elected to the Council nearly two years ago I remain committed to helping constituents in my census tract and am always eager to problem solve and help assist. I've found myself learning about and handling a myriad of challenges including helping to facilitate issues with trees growing into power lines, relocation of homeless to safer locations, minimizing loss of trees, assisting in clearing debris and restoring power in the wind storm this past year, and many other urgent and not so urgent issues. I approach each of these issues with the same energy and passion to help.

My personal interests include battling the growing effects of climate change, seeking continued steps toward equality and equity, embracing and wisely cohabitating with wildlife, and encouraging respectful discourse between the humans in our town as well. I'm well aware of the fact that I am an elected official and at times expected to overlook my own preferences and make sure the residents I serve are heard and that their safety and comfort are my priority.

Last fall our Executive Committee agreed to let me form a Communication Committee and appointed me Chair. I immediately gathered a dozen committee members, half from our council and half residents and in the past year we have had some great accomplishments.

-We created a resident survey that has provided valuable info like how they get their information, what issues concern them most, and what they would like to see from the council.

-We began asset mapping of local organizations in hopes of forming a network for the incredible array of local special interest groups to better communicate and collaborate.

-We encouraged and help form and run a retreat to better connect our Town Council internally.

-Last month we hosted a Town Hall which I plan to create more of on a regular basis.

-Finally, we have spent the past 6 months creating a couple welcome packs:

-One for new Councilmembers filled with guidance and vital info to help them come on board and better serve residents from the get go.

-The other is for New Neighbors and includes useful contact info on local resources as well as information helping them figure out how to contact county offices when a variety of issues come up. The packs will also include a rotating presence of giveaways, vouchers, and coupons highlighting our many incredible local businesses. At this time the welcome packs are focused on new homeowners but we are developing a way to include renters and will be soon posting a digital version of the pack on our Town Council website for current residents to access as well.

-One of the things I am most proud of is creating a high school internship program for local students to become more aware of and involved with their community while earning their required community service hours. In this first year we have arranged service work for over 60 students and signed off on or connected students with local non-profits racking up a total of over 500 service hours.

Many of these are ongoing projects and I have a wish list of many more things I'd like to get started on. I am hoping to have that opportunity with reelection but I also have come to appreciate that the opportunities to enact positive change are not limited to a seat on the Town Council. We are all able to take part in improving our community and I'm committed to do that in any capacity I am able to.

